



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 128**

January Session, 2011

Substitute Senate Bill No. 844

*Senate, March 22, 2011*

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### ***AN ACT ADOPTING A FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) There is established a  
2       foster parent bill of rights for any person who is licensed as a foster  
3       parent by the Department of Children and Families. The foster parent  
4       bill of rights shall require the department to:

5       (1) Treat the foster parent with consideration and respect;

6       (2) Notify the foster parent of meetings scheduled by the  
7       department concerning the foster child in order to allow the foster  
8       parent to actively participate and have input into the case-planning  
9       and decision-making process regarding the foster child;

10      (3) Provide the foster parent with support services to assist in the  
11      care of the foster child that are consistent with the foster child's  
12      approved permanency plan;

- 13 (4) Provide the foster parent with open, complete and timely  
14 responses to requests;
- 15 (5) Provide the foster parent with information concerning the foster  
16 child's medical history, general behavior and relationships with other  
17 foster parents, as permitted under state and federal law;
- 18 (6) Provide the foster parent with information concerning the  
19 educational history, life experiences and placement circumstances of  
20 the foster child, as permitted under state and federal law;
- 21 (7) Provide the foster parent with information on all department  
22 policies and procedures that relate to the role of a foster parent;
- 23 (8) Provide the foster parent with appropriate training to enhance  
24 relevant skills and abilities of the foster parent;
- 25 (9) Provide the foster parent with (A) information on services that  
26 are available through the department, and (B) contact information that  
27 allows the foster parent to contact the department at any time;
- 28 (10) Provide the foster parent with an opportunity to be heard  
29 regarding department decisions and practices, and not retaliate against  
30 a foster parent who questions or appeals a decision or practice of the  
31 department; and
- 32 (11) Provide the foster parent with a copy of the foster parent bill of  
33 rights (A) when a child is placed in foster care with the foster parent,  
34 and (B) upon request of the foster parent.
- 35 (b) No provision of this section shall create a private right of action  
36 for any person.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2011	New section
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**KID**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

HS

**HS**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	less than \$100	less than \$100

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill results in an annual cost to the Department of Children and Families of less than \$100 to provide foster parents with a copy of the foster parent bill of rights (A) when a child is placed into foster care with the foster parent, and (B) upon request.

The rights established in the bill are similar to current agency practice and do not result in a fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 844*****AN ACT ADOPTING A FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a bill of rights for the state's licensed foster parents. The bill of rights designates the actions the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must take to support these parents, including that it not retaliate against them for challenging an agency decision or practice. The bill specifies that the bill of rights creates no private right of action for anyone; that is, no person who alleges a violation of these rights can petition the court for relief.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

**FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS**

Under the bill of rights, DCF must provide the foster parent:

1. consideration and respect;
2. notice of meetings DCF schedules concerning the foster child to enable the parent to actively participate and have input into the case-planning and decision-making process for the child;
3. support services to assist in the child's care that are consistent with the child's approved permanency plan;
4. open, complete, and timely responses to requests;
5. information on the child's medical history, general behavior, and relationships with other foster parents, as the law allows;
6. information on the child's educational history, life experiences, and placement circumstances, as the law allows;

7. information on all DCF policies and procedures related to their role;
8. appropriate training to enhance his or her relevant skills and abilities;
9. information on available DCF services and contact information for reaching DCF at any time;
10. an opportunity to question or appeal DCF decisions and practices; and
11. a copy of the bill of rights when the child is placed with the parent and when the parent requests one.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

## Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 7 Nay 2 (02/15/2011)

## Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 5 (03/10/2011)